

TRIBUTE TO THE GOOD COMPANY
PLAYERS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Good Company Players of Fresno. Good Company Players is an exceptionally talented theater production company where Fresnoans can view the performing arts.

The Good Company Players opened its doors in 1973 in the ballroom of the Fresno Hilton. After three summers there and two summers at other Fresno auditoriums, Good Company Players moved to its current location at Roger Rock's Music Hall. With its yearround performances, Good Company Players became the centerpiece in Fresno's Tower District, a cultural and entertainment hub in the central valley. Finally, 1982 marked the opening of Good Company's Second Space Theater which accommodates performances from school groups and junior programs.

Good Company is the premier production company throughout the Fresno area and has entertained 1,250,000 people. Over 1,683 performers have participated in a total of 7,500 shows. Currently, Good Company offers 12 performances a year and several acting workshops for both children and adults.

As Fresno's gateway to Broadway, Good Company boasts several acclaimed alumni. Specifically, Audra McDonald—who plays Eponine in *Les Misérables*—is a two-time Tony winner. Other Broadway veterans include Sarah Uriarte, Duane Boutte, Sharon Leal and Tony nominee Bob Westenberg. Along with Broadway, Good Company has launched many of Fresno's residents into television, technical and choreographic careers.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Good Company Players of Fresno. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Good Company Players many more years of success.

IN HONOR OF THERESE ROCCO,
MOM'S HOUSE 1997 COURAGEOUS
WOMAN

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, the contributions made by Therese Rocco to our local communities and our Nation serve as a testament to the lasting impact that can be achieved by a single individual. It is with extreme pleasure that I congratulate Therese on being named Mom's House Courageous Woman of 1997.

Therese's accomplishments are as extensive as they are impressive. Her efforts have won praise from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, several mayors of Pittsburgh, the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, Allegheny County Commissioners, the Pennsylvania State Service Commission, and *Newsweek* magazine, to name a few. Therese has been rightly recognized not only for her skill and dedication, but for her foresight re-

garding emerging needs in the criminal justice system. Clearly, Therese is a woman of great courage who has demonstrated the vision and spirit that is necessary to raise awareness and bring about real change.

A female pioneer in police enforcement and public administration, Therese brought to light the need for community policing and greater representation of women officers, as well as the plight of underprivileged and abused children. That these issues are still of concern today illustrates that Therese was way ahead of the curve when she began examining them over 30 years ago. Without question, Therese is an excellent choice for this award, as her life has the power to inspire young women who may have doubts about the validity of their own worth and aspirations.

I, along with my distinguished colleagues from western Pennsylvania, salute your most recent award, Mom's House Courageous Woman of 1997. Please accept our most sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

HONORING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the founding family and faithful members of the St. John's Baptist Church of Jersey City, NJ. On October 25, 1997, at the Newark Airport Hilton in Elizabeth, NJ, the church will celebrate its 68th anniversary of service.

St. John's Baptist Church was inspired and founded by Rev. Franklin Saunders, Deacons B.J. Johnson and George Bedtison, and a handful of faithful members in 1929. That same year, the newly established church at 121 York Street in Jersey City, NJ was incorporated by the State of New Jersey. Before settling in to its current location at 525 Bramhall Avenue in 1948, the church relocated three times within Jersey City: The corner of Monmouth and Grand Streets, 291 Grand Street, and 70 Monticello Avenue. The latter purchase, during the Depression in 1936, required two men of substantial employment—Deacons Johnson and Bedtison as signatories on a note for \$4008 to qualify for purchase of that property.

The church has not only survived for 68 years but also thrived, while enriching the community. The church's numerous humanitarian public service projects and the friendly nature of its members has helped make Jersey City and the surrounding area a better place to live. For 68 years, members and clergy have worked diligently to ensure the success of the church and the community.

Among the faithful St. John's members and contributors over the years are Reverend Sammie Hawkins, Jr., Reverend Brawner, Associate Ministers Reverend Richard Hare and Leroy Witcher and Reverend R.L. Williams. Reverend Hawkins, the church's new administrator, originally from East Dublin, GA arrived permanently on December 28, 1990 with his lovely wife, Sister Latchal Hawkins, and daughters, Ebony and Valerie.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding congregation in my district. I ask that my col-

leagues join me in recognizing the excellent work of the St. John's Baptist Church.

SUPPORT MORAN SUBSTITUTE TO
D.C. APPROPRIATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Moran amendment to the D.C. appropriations bill. I find the arguments of the gentlelady from the District of Columbia, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the minority members of the Appropriations Committee to be most persuasive. This bill breaks the rules of the House. Once again, the Republican majority is attempting to legislate on an appropriations bill. They have thrown everything but the kitchen sink into this bill. They cannot pass their social agenda on a national scale, so they are starting small with one city.

The Moran substitute eliminates some of the more egregious provisions of the bill. First, it deletes the provision that establishes a new program to provide educational scholarships to low-income students. In our country, every child is guaranteed the right to a free, public education. We have all heard the horror stories about the terrible state of disrepair of the DC schools. There is no doubt about the fact when we have statistics from reliable sources like the GAO telling us that in 1996, 49 percent of the schools in the District had at least one building in need of extensive repair and 68 percent had at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition.

Rather than aggravating the situation, we should be working to improve the DC public schools. Unfortunately, the misguided Republican Leadership has chosen to "fix" this problem by including a proposal to provide up to \$3,200 per student so that 2,000 children from low-income families could attend private schools. This plan will drain \$45 million in Federal funds away from the public schools already in dire straits and will do absolutely nothing for the 97 percent of students in the District who remain in the public schools.

Only two private schools in DC have tuition rates lower than the amount provided by the "scholarships". This plan does not provide any great "choice" for most families in the District. It simply adds two schools to the many public schools they can currently choose. Those two schools, however, still have the option of saying "no" to any student who does not meet their standards for admission. In fact, even if they did not decline admission to students based on their admission requirements, they would have to decline admission to the large majority of students simply due to inadequate space.

The public schools of the District will continue to fund facilities, staff, and administrative